

Agency Proposed Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2000	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2002	New Proposals Fiscal 2002	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 2002	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2003	New Proposals Fiscal 2003	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 2003	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 02-03
FTE	29.90	0.00	0.60	30.50	0.00	0.60	30.50	30.50
Personal Services	1,162,510	(6,398)	31,923	1,188,035	417	31,923	1,194,850	2,382,885
Operating Expenses	1,007,212	88,459	235,000	1,330,671	59,455	235,000	1,301,667	2,632,338
Equipment	128,681	28,842	0	157,523	28,842	0	157,523	315,046
Grants	630,090	932,584	200,000	1,762,674	233,449	200,000	1,063,539	2,826,213
Transfers	0	500,000	0	500,000	0	0	0	500,000
Debt Service	29,128	(29,128)	0	0	(29,128)	0	0	0
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$2,957,621</b>	<b>\$1,514,359</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>	<b>\$4,938,903</b>	<b>\$293,035</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>	<b>\$3,717,579</b>	<b>\$8,656,482</b>
General Fund	1,597,833	342,180	346,115	2,286,128	70,798	346,115	2,014,746	4,300,874
State/Other Special	667,481	158,792	120,808	947,081	133,850	120,808	922,139	1,869,220
Federal Special	692,307	1,013,387	0	1,705,694	88,387	0	780,694	2,486,388
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$2,957,621</b>	<b>\$1,514,359</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>	<b>\$4,938,903</b>	<b>\$293,035</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>	<b>\$3,717,579</b>	<b>\$8,656,482</b>

### Agency Description

The Library Commission provides assistance and advice to all tax-supported libraries and local governments wishing to establish or improve libraries. The Library Commission administers state and federal library funding, operates and maintains the State Library and Natural Resources Information System, oversees the six library federations, and develops statewide long-range planning, policy, and service coordination.

### Agency Discussion

The executive recommends a State Library Commission budget that is a 12 percent increase over the 2001 appropriated level. The major causes of this increase are: 1) a proposed new state aid program for under-funded libraries, and 2) a proposed new statewide periodical database.

Biennium Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Present Law Fiscal 2002	New Proposals Fiscal 2002	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 2002	Present Law Fiscal 2003	New Proposals Fiscal 2003	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 2003	Total Biennium Fiscal 00-01	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 02-03
FTE	29.90	0.60	30.50	29.90	0.60	30.50	0.00	30.50
Personal Services	1,156,112	31,923	1,188,035	1,162,927	31,923	1,194,850	2,279,280	2,382,885
Operating Expenses	1,095,671	235,000	1,330,671	1,066,667	235,000	1,301,667	1,864,981	2,632,338
Equipment	157,523	0	157,523	157,523	0	157,523	289,948	315,046
Grants	1,562,674	200,000	1,762,674	863,539	200,000	1,063,539	2,223,387	2,826,213
Transfers	500,000	0	500,000	0	0	0	0	500,000
Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	31,158	0
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$4,471,980</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>	<b>\$4,938,903</b>	<b>\$3,250,656</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>	<b>\$3,717,579</b>	<b>\$6,688,754</b>	<b>\$8,656,482</b>
General Fund	1,940,013	346,115	2,286,128	1,668,631	346,115	2,014,746	3,221,395	4,300,874
State/Other Special	826,273	120,808	947,081	801,331	120,808	922,139	1,341,097	1,869,220
Federal Special	1,705,694	0	1,705,694	780,694	0	780,694	2,126,262	2,486,388
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$4,471,980</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>	<b>\$4,938,903</b>	<b>\$3,250,656</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>	<b>\$3,717,579</b>	<b>\$6,688,754</b>	<b>\$8,656,482</b>

**New Proposals**

The table below summarizes all new proposals requested by the executive. Descriptions and LFD discussion of each new proposal are included in the individual program narratives.

New Proposals										
-----Fiscal 2002-----						-----Fiscal 2003-----				
<i>Prgm</i>	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 2 - Stable funding for NRIS Core										
07	0.60	28,615	3,308	0	31,923	0.60	28,615	3,308	0	31,923
DP 5 - Periodical Database										
01	0.00	117,500	117,500	0	235,000	0.00	117,500	117,500	0	235,000
DP 6 - New State Aid Program										
01	0.00	200,000	0	0	200,000	0.00	200,000	0	0	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>\$346,115</b>	<b>\$120,808</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>\$346,115</b>	<b>\$120,808</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$466,923</b>

Program Proposed Budget								
<i>Budget Item</i>	Base Budget Fiscal 2000	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2002	New Proposals Fiscal 2002	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 2002	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2003	New Proposals Fiscal 2003	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 2003	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 02-03
FTE	24.50	0.00	0.00	24.50	0.00	0.00	24.50	24.50
Personal Services	914,828	(23,808)	0	891,020	(18,439)	0	896,389	1,787,409
Operating Expenses	698,505	(39,237)	235,000	894,268	(71,059)	235,000	862,446	1,756,714
Equipment	119,840	8,842	0	128,682	8,842	0	128,682	257,364
Grants	630,090	932,584	200,000	1,762,674	233,449	200,000	1,063,539	2,826,213
Debt Service	14,564	(14,564)	0	0	(14,564)	0	0	0
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$2,377,827</b>	<b>\$863,817</b>	<b>\$435,000</b>	<b>\$3,676,644</b>	<b>\$138,229</b>	<b>\$435,000</b>	<b>\$2,951,056</b>	<b>\$6,627,700</b>
General Fund	1,540,599	322,641	317,500	2,180,740	47,053	317,500	1,905,152	4,085,892
State/Other Special	174,921	2,789	117,500	295,210	2,789	117,500	295,210	590,420
Federal Special	662,307	538,387	0	1,200,694	88,387	0	750,694	1,951,388
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$2,377,827</b>	<b>\$863,817</b>	<b>\$435,000</b>	<b>\$3,676,644</b>	<b>\$138,229</b>	<b>\$435,000</b>	<b>\$2,951,056</b>	<b>\$6,627,700</b>

### Program Description

The State Library Operations Program provides information, referral, and consultation services to state government and all libraries in the state; direct services to blind and handicapped patrons; and direction to the six library federations. The Operations Program also manages budget and personnel functions of the state library, serves as a state documents and federal publications depository, and coordinates library collections throughout the state.

### Funding

This program is funded with a combination of general fund, state special revenue from coal tax and donations, and federal special revenue from federal Library Service Technology Act grants.

Present Law Adjustments										
-----Fiscal 2002-----						-----Fiscal 2003-----				
FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds		FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
Personal Services				(2,441)						3,094
Vacancy Savings				(24,717)						(24,883)
Inflation/Deflation				(910)						180
Fixed Costs				52,783						41,874
Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments				\$24,715						\$20,265
DP 7 - Base adjustment for Grants										
0.00	130,437	0	669,551	799,988		0.00	(120,701)	0	219,551	98,850
DP 8 - Base adjustment to Prgm 01										
0.00	36,753	2,361	0	39,114		0.00	16,753	2,361	0	19,114
Total Other Present Law Adjustments										
0.00	\$167,190	\$2,361	\$669,551	\$839,102		0.00	(\$103,948)	\$2,361	\$219,551	\$117,964
Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments				\$863,817						\$138,229

### Executive Present Law Adjustments

The "Present Law Adjustments" table shows the primary changes to the adjusted base budget included in the executive present law. "Statewide Present Law" adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Legislative decisions on these items will be applied globally to all agencies. A description of each item is included in the "Agency Budget Analysis Roadmap" section that begins this volume. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

DP 7 - Base Adjustment for Grants - This present law adjustment, if approved, would provide increased funding for a biennial appropriation of \$251,138 general fund and \$889,102 federal funds for grants to local libraries to provide state aid and library services at the local community level.

**LFD  
COMMENT**

The federal funds supporting this request are a Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant that has already been approved by the National Library Foundation.

DP 8 - Base Adjustment to Program 01 - This present law adjustment, if approved, would provide the State Library with funding for base adjustments during the 2003 biennium for zero-based per diem, contracts, training, and computer replacements. The Library Commission per-diem is a zero-based item. The increase is based on two Montana State Library commissioners that will be per-diem eligible in the 2003 biennium.

The State Library is also requesting additional funding to:

- ?? enlarge the Talking Books Library Program.
- ?? maintain the Keystone library systems specialized single-source maintenance contracts.
- ?? continue Braille service contracts, which have increased both in patrons and cost.
- ?? replace parts for playback machines previously provided by the National Library Services.
- ?? adjust for price increases for consumable items.
- ?? attend mandatory orientation at the National Library Service once every five years.

This funding would also provide the State Library with funds for computer replacements. The State Library has 10 computers that would be replaced under the Information Services Division's four-year life cycle replacement guidelines at the recommended cost of \$2,000 apiece.

**LFD  
COMMENT**

The agency has developed this on a priority-based replacement system and would replace computers based on legislatively approved funding levels.

The State Library is requesting an operating funds increase for additional software and programming to provide citizen and state employee access to the State Library Horizon catalog via the web.

**LFD  
COMMENT**

This software is a windows archive utility that allows public access to shareware and periodicals through the public library accessed materials catalog. This software, if funded, would provide State Library patrons and state agencies the ability to access much of the material in the Horizon catalog from their individual home computers and workstations. This program could potentially be expanded to other state agency library holdings.

The State Library is requesting an operating funds increase to produce an updated/revised Trustee Manual and a New Director's Manual.

**LFD  
COMMENT**

Due to increases in production costs, the Library will only be able to produce one publication if the legislature chooses to fund this request. Internal agency cost-benefit analysis indicates, if the legislature funds this request, the agency will produce a New Library Director's manual. This manual will be distributed to 79 public and 28 branch libraries.

The State Library is requesting funding to provide insurance for volunteers in the Talking Books Library, and delivery service and repair of recorders.

The State Library is requesting funding to continue state sharing of the Lasercat Subscription project with local libraries.

**LFD  
COMMENT**

- This is the equivalent of bulk purchase buying power. The State Library has been successful in securing local libraries a reduced rate by negotiating this at the state level. This is pass-through funding, as the secured rate is paid to the state library system and returned to the general fund.

During fiscal 2000 the library moved funding for pay from personal service to temporary services. This funding would reestablish the base.

The State Library is requesting an 8 percent inflation factor be applied to the materials collection, which is a specialized collection based on information needs of state government.

New Proposals										
-----Fiscal 2002-----						-----Fiscal 2003-----				
<i>Prgm</i>	FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 5 - Periodical Database										
01	0.00	117,500	117,500	0	235,000	0.00	117,500	117,500	0	235,000
DP 6 - New State Aid Program										
01	0.00	200,000	0	0	200,000	0.00	200,000	0	0	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$317,500</b>	<b>\$117,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$435,000</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$317,500</b>	<b>\$117,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$435,000</b>

**New Proposals**

DP 5 - Periodical Database - The 1999 legislature provided \$400,000 over the biennium, of which \$200,000 was general fund, for a pilot project which allowed access by Montana local libraries to a statewide database of periodicals. Citizens could access this information through their libraries or, in many cases, from their homes. The agency is requesting funding in the State Library base budget to continue this magazine database including funding to purchase information products in the specialized areas of biography and legal resources. The agency has indicated local libraries can absorb half of the cost of this proposal. Therefore, the program contains an even cost share.

**LFD  
COMMENT**

The term "periodical/magazine database" in this context is somewhat a misnomer. This proposal is not intended to purchase electronic access to typical high volume magazines like "Time". It is intended to provide statewide access to on-line encyclopedias, reader's services, humanities, research materials, and multiple full-text periodicals that would be cost prohibitive to many small-town libraries. There is a substantial financial benefit to purchasing this under unlimited user licenses as opposed to single point user licenses. This database, if approved, could be extended without restriction to the state's 82 public libraries, 28 academic libraries, 10 institutional libraries, 447 school libraries, and 41 special libraries that have Internet capability. This is a total of 608 libraries. There are only 35 libraries that do not have Internet capability, indicating that 573 public libraries could have access to this database. Libraries with an on-line capability could be added to the access database immediately, with other libraries added when on-line capability is developed. The 35 libraries that do not currently have Internet capability can also receive this database through a regularly updated CD-ROM.

DP 6 - New State Aid Program - This new proposal would provide state aid grants to help under-funded communities garner sufficient funds to support basic library service. This program is based on the average value of one mil in Montana. Communities having property valuation above this average would not receive state aid under this program. Communities under the average would receive a proportional amount of state aid based on their population and distance from a large community.

There are 19 public library service areas where the value of a mil is below the state average. These libraries rely primarily on property tax funding, and low mil values result in low library service funding. Citizens in these areas receive reduced library and information services that are readily available in other parts of Montana. The agency wishes to help libraries provide access to all citizens so they may benefit economically, socially, and civilly. Libraries eligible for this program include those levied at the statutory maximum; those legally established as a school-community, district, county, or city-county library; and those meeting minimum standards established by the Montana Library Commission.

**LFD  
COMMENT**

This new proposal would provide additional funding to some of the state's most under-funded libraries. The agency is proposing to establish a "baseline level" for library services across the state. In essence, the State Library is proposing to: 1) establish minimum operations and level of service standards for the approximately 19 public libraries that would qualify for this program, and 2) provide funding to these libraries to maintain this basic level of service. Essentially, this proposal would provide state assistance in funding the achievement of this baseline.

**Background information**

The basic criteria for this grant would be based on the value of a mil in the State of Montana (currently \$1,684,706). Communities with property value revenues above this level would not qualify. Communities that are not currently assessing to the minimum levels of 22-1-304(2) MCA (5 mils at county level and 7 mils at city level) would also not qualify. The Montana Library Commission would also set basic performance standards under 22-1-03(8), MCA. The program would also contain "supplant restrictions" prohibiting local communities from intentionally reducing mil levels in order to qualify for this program. Other considerations include the community's distance from a major population center and its proportional population size in comparison to the funding requested.

The benefit of this program would be the ability to provide library access at a basic level across the state to communities that have displayed a desire to have a library (through mil assessment history) but are located in economically depressed areas (decreasing mil values) that makes adequate funding a challenge based on low tax revenues. Program success would be measured by the ability of the local library to serve their customer base and meet State Library Commission directed performance criteria.

**LFD  
ISSUE**

Options the legislature may wish to consider in this issue are:

- 1) Does the legislature support the concept of this re-distribution?
- 2) Does the legislature support approval of the funding at the requested level?
- 3) Could cost share requirements (matching funds) be required?
- 4) Could additional restrictions on eligibility be required?
- 5) Could additional restrictions on performance be added?

**Language Recommendations**

The following HB 2 language is recommended by the executive: "Item 1 includes a biennial appropriation of \$251,138 general fund and \$889,102 federal special revenue for grants to local libraries."

Program Proposed Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2000	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2002	New Proposals Fiscal 2002	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 2002	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2003	New Proposals Fiscal 2003	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 2003	Total Exec. Budget Fiscal 02-03
FTE	5.40	0.00	0.60	6.00	0.00	0.60	6.00	6.00
Personal Services	247,682	17,410	31,923	297,015	18,856	31,923	298,461	595,476
Operating Expenses	308,707	127,696	0	436,403	130,514	0	439,221	875,624
Equipment	8,841	20,000	0	28,841	20,000	0	28,841	57,682
Transfers	0	500,000	0	500,000	0	0	0	500,000
Debt Service	14,564	(14,564)	0	0	(14,564)	0	0	0
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$579,794</b>	<b>\$650,542</b>	<b>\$31,923</b>	<b>\$1,262,259</b>	<b>\$154,806</b>	<b>\$31,923</b>	<b>\$766,523</b>	<b>\$2,028,782</b>
General Fund	57,234	19,539	28,615	105,388	23,745	28,615	109,594	214,982
State/Other Special	492,560	156,003	3,308	651,871	131,061	3,308	626,929	1,278,800
Federal Special	30,000	475,000	0	505,000	0	0	30,000	535,000
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$579,794</b>	<b>\$650,542</b>	<b>\$31,923</b>	<b>\$1,262,259</b>	<b>\$154,806</b>	<b>\$31,923</b>	<b>\$766,523</b>	<b>\$2,028,782</b>

### Program Description

The Natural Resources Information Services Program (NRIS) manages multiple standard systems for acquisition, storage, retrieval, and management of geographical information systems data related to water information; and, rare and exemplary plants, animals, communities, and geographical features.

### Program Narrative

#### Program overview

NRIS maintains three very specialized programs, the Natural Heritage Program (a computer-assisted inventory of Montana's biological resources, emphasizing rare or endangered plant and animal species and biological communities), the Water Information System (a system for locating water resources information in Montana, such as data on surface water, groundwater, water quality, riparian areas, water rights, and climate data), and the Geographic Information System (maps, map data, analytical services, and technical assistance for the growing number of users of computerized mapping programs). NRIS annual report data indicates that federal requests are decreasing, state agency requests are staying constant, and private requests are increasing.

NRIS maintains two forms of "customers". "Core customers," those requiring basic program services for a wide range of needs (the walk through the door and day-to-day customers), and "contract customers" that require special products and services related to the specific product needs of individual agencies (special product customers). Historical data indicates the core customers may be substantially increasing (these are mostly internet users downloading from the existing database). Contract customers (state and federal) are remaining constant, though contracts are becoming smaller and more administratively intensive.

#### Budget Overview

NRIS' budget proposal indicates a movement toward more reliance on the general fund. The proposed 2003 budget consists of 11 percent general fund, while the 2001 budget consisted of 6 percent general fund, the 1999 budget 6 percent general fund, the 1997 budget 6 percent general fund, and, the 1995 budget no general fund. The program is requesting that general fund be included in the 2003 biennium to provide a stable core "fund." Other revenue would continue to be collected when more specialized work is being done for particular "customers." For further discussion see the LFD issue in DP 1.

#### Performance Based Budgeting

NRIS provides an informational database, and serves the special needs of a select number of state and federal agencies but they have not been performance based budgeted since 1997.

**LFD  
ISSUE**

Since NRIS is not performance budgeted, there is no external "performance based assessment" of organizational cost effectiveness of what NRIS produces for the cost paid by the taxpayers (both from the perspective of all taxpayers in general, and the individual state agencies funding contract services). The agency has indicated that the state agencies served under contract could not provide the service NRIS provides for the cost, based on the observation that agencies would have to purchase their own hardware and produce their own data. This does not address the possibility of contracting with a private organization. The legislature may wish to consider directing state agencies receiving NRIS service to conduct an independent review of their continued needs and the cost-effectiveness of other options.

**Funding**

This program is funded with a combination of general fund, and state and federal special revenues. General fund provides 11 percent of total funding. State special revenues include funding from renewable resources and reclamation and development trust accounts; and the Departments of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Transportation; and Environmental Quality. Federal special revenues represent contracts NRIS receives for specific services to federal agencies.

Present Law Adjustments										
-----Fiscal 2002-----					-----Fiscal 2003-----					
	FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
Personal Services					(4,952)					(3,580)
Vacancy Savings					(6,645)					(6,686)
Inflation/Deflation					66					209
Fixed Costs					13,066					15,741
<b>Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments</b>					<b>\$1,535</b>					<b>\$5,684</b>
DP 1 - Stable Funding Structure for NRIS	0.00	4,513	140,487	475,000	620,000	0.00	4,513	115,487	0	120,000
DP 4 - PS adjustment for vacant NRIS Positions	0.00	14,504	14,503	0	29,007	0.00	14,561	14,561	0	29,122
<b>Total Other Present Law Adjustments</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$19,017</b>	<b>\$154,990</b>	<b>\$475,000</b>	<b>\$649,007</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$19,074</b>	<b>\$130,048</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$149,122</b>
<b>Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments</b>					<b>\$650,542</b>					<b>\$154,806</b>

**Executive Present Law Adjustments**

The "Present Law Adjustments" table shows the primary changes to the adjusted base budget included in the executive present law. "Statewide Present Law" adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Legislative decisions on these items will be applied globally to all agencies. A description of each item is included in the "Agency Budget Analysis Roadmap" section that begins this volume. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

DP 1 - Stable Funding Structure for NRIS - This present law adjustment, if approved, would fund the agency to continue the current level of service, adjust for a Natural Heritage Program contract increase, and establish a consistent operations budget. Historically, contracts have increased as a percentage of the general operation budget. The agency contends the general operation budget would be more effective as core level funding.



**LFD  
ISSUE**

The legislature may wish to consider the NRIS program from the perspective of, "Does the legislature wish to reduce, continue, or expand current service levels?" Germane to this issue is:

- ?? what is the tangible measure of the current service level?
- ?? how does the legislature know and measure NRIS' cost-effectiveness?
- ?? how would state agencies and residents provide for themselves if NRIS did not exist?

NRIS' current situation is one of disproportionate demand in comparison to funding. During 1998 and 1999, core customer demand (by Internet contact) rose 113 percent. During 2000, core customer demand (by Internet contact) rose an additional 49 percent. Growth in core demand (by Internet) is increasing almost exponentially, whereas contract customer demand during this same period has remained relatively stable. Personal Services also rose 49 percent during the same period. NRIS currently receives the majority of their funding from contract customers (state and federal agencies.) The issue could be, should all taxpayers be funding the Internet demand, or should NRIS charge for this data to support this program through the state special revenue process?

Essentially, NRIS Decision Packages are asking the general fund to assume more of the "up-front" cost of running the program. NRIS still receives substantial funding outside of the general fund, but the unpredictability in contract work also causes internal job security issues with program personnel.

NRIS is requesting "stable" general funding to be able to provide service to their core customers, (their growth market), as special revenues (state and federal) are supporting the contract customers. Potentially, the questions that may need to be addressed are:

- ?? is this a service all taxpayers should be paying for?
- ?? is this a service the core customers should be paying for?

DP 4 - PS adjustment for vacant NRIS Positions - This present law adjustment, if approved, would provide funding to fill five vacant NRIS positions at the market rate under pay plan 68 for Information Technology specialists. NRIS is not currently funded to fill these positions above entry level. Positions include: an Information Systems Support Specialist Grade 15, a Career Executive Grade 18, an Information System Support Specialist Grade 17, a Programmer/Analyst Grade 15, and a Programmer/Analyst Grade 15.

**LFD  
COMMENT**

During the period between agency submittal of budgets and the LFD budget analysis, three of these positions have been filled. Inability to recruit at entry level resulted in the positions being filled at market salary or above, making average employee costs in NRIS a contributing factor in the large rise in program costs.

New Proposals										
-----Fiscal 2002-----						-----Fiscal 2003-----				
<i>Prgm</i>	FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 2 - Stable funding for NRIS Core										
07	0.60	28,615	3,308	0	31,923	0.60	28,615	3,308	0	31,923
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>\$28,615</b>	<b>\$3,308</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$31,923</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>\$28,615</b>	<b>\$3,308</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$31,923</b>

### New Proposals

DP 2 - Stable funding for NRIS Core - This new proposal would provide additional general funding in the NRIS core program and fund a 0.60 FTE from general fund rather than special state or federal revenue. The current general fund budget provides for 5.4 FTE. Full staff levels are 10 FTE. This proposal would transfer a 0.60 FTE under the general fund to provide more stable funding for the position and allow the program to support two-thirds of its staff with stable funding.

### Language Recommendations

The following HB 2 language is recommended by the executive:

Item 2a includes \$500,000 for legislative contract authority as a biennial appropriation, subject to the following provisions:

- 1) legislative contract authority applies only to state special revenue funds received from the Montana university system, federal funds, and private funds.
- 2) legislative contract authority expenditures must be reported on the state accounting system. The records must be separate from present law operations. In preparing the 2005 biennium budget for legislative consideration, the office of budget and program planning may not include the expenditures from this item in the present law base.
- 3) a report must be submitted by the Montana state library commission to the legislative fiscal division following the end of each fiscal year of the biennium. The report must include a list of projects with the related amount of expenditures and FTE for each project.
- 4) legislative contract authority may be transferred between state special and federal special revenue depending upon the contract received by the Montana state library."

The funding that is received by the following state agencies be line itemed in HB 2 and restricted to NRIS:

#### 2003 Biennial Amount

Fish, Wildlife and Parks	\$138,779
Department of Environmental Quality	\$177,859
Montana Department of Transportation	\$ 63,689
Department of Natural Resources	\$ 98,309
Universities	\$ 88,505

### Executive Recommended Legislation

The executive is requesting language to have these dollar amounts line itemed in HB2 to come directly into NRIS, and to be able to move appropriations between state special revenue and federal special revenue depending upon contracts that are received.

**LFD  
ISSUE**

Initial data indicates that the agencies that this will affect are not supportive of language that provides for this funding to go directly to NRIS.